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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

1944

BRIXHAM

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

1944

S.G.C.O.A.D.
BRIXHAM.

Urban District of Brixham

Chairman of the Council :

COUNCILLOR J. PENNY, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE :

Chairman : COUNCILLOR C. WIDDICOMBE.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

HOUSING COMMITTEE :

Chairman : COUNCILLOR C. M. ASHFORD.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council :
SANDERS LEAR

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health and Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, and Port Medical Officer :

†‡ANDREW DICK, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Port Medical Officer :

*†J. I. SNODGRASS, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Foods, Port Health Inspector, Housing Officer, and Inspector under the Petroleum and Explosives Acts :

†‡FRANCIS LAWRENCE GODFREY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

*Part time.
‡Whole time.
†Salary contribution by Exchequer Grants.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIXHAM

FOR 1944.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1944. In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health the war-time restrictions upon the subject matter and publication of Annual Reports are now removed.

These instructions emphasise the importance of Water Supplies, and I have to record that arrangements have now been made for regular periodic samples of Laywell spring water being taken for Analysis. Chlorination of this supply is maintained.

BIRTH RATE.

A marked increase in the rate (19.15 as compared with 10.48 for 1943), is consistent with the increase for the country generally. Of the total, live births, 159, Seventy-two occurred in Brixham Hospital.

DEATH RATE

This is again unstandardised, so that a true comparison for age-grouping with the whole country is not possible.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There was no epidemic, and no prevalence of any infectious disease.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Thirty-three children aged 1 to 5 years were fully protected. It is estimated that of the 670 children under 5 years in the town, 25.8% are fully protected, and 66.8% of the 1.300 children aged 5 to 15 years. The immunising agent used in all cases was Alum Precipitated Toxin in two doses of 0.4 cc and 0.5 cc. No special ill effects have been reported.

My sincere thanks are due to Health Visitor, Miss Lee, both for her assistance with immunisation and for her energy in bringing the benefit of this to the notice of parents.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant.

A. DICK,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District	5,626 acres
Population, 1931 Census	8,147
Population, estimated 1944	8,314
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1944 (approx.)	2,625
Rateable Value of District at April 1st, 1944—	
Inside Harbour Area	£46,882
Outside ,, ,, ...	£3,477
Total	£50,359

VITAL STATISTICS, 1944.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ...	83	59	142
Illegitimate	11	6	17
	94	65	159

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 19.15

STILL BIRTHS.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ...	1	2	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	1	2	3

Rate per 1,000, total live and still births 18.51

DEATHS.

Male	Female	Total
77	65	142

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...17.10

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ...	4	—	4
Illegitimate	2	—	2

Rate per 1,000 of the live & still births, 37.03

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—

Puerperal Sepsis	—
Other Puerperal Causes	—

Rate per 1,000 live and still births 00.00

RAINFALL, 1944

The rainfall, registered at Combe Bank, by Sir H. Clayton, Brixham, for 1944, was as follows: January, 3.22 inches; February, .54; March, .09; April, 2.63; May, .36; June, 2.86; July 3.89; August, 3.69; September, 2.00; October, 5.06; November, 8.18; December, 3.41; total of 35.93 inches. The average for the last 10 years is 41.39.

By courtesy of Sir Harold Clayton.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1944 (As supplied by Registrar General)

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...			
Measles			
Scarlet Fever			
Whooping Cough			
Diphtheria			
Influenza	2		2
Encephalitis			
Cerebro Spinal Fever			
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	2	1	3
Other Tuberculosis	1		1
Syphilis		1	1
Cancer	13	8	21
Diabetes		1	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	8	11	19
Heart Disease	19	20	39
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	3	4
Bronchitis	4	3	7
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	1	4
Other Respiratory Diseases			
Peptic Ulcer			
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)			
Appendicitis		1	1
Other digestive diseases		1	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	3	3	6
Puerperal Sepsis			
Other Puerperal Diseases			
Congenital debility, Premature birth, etc.	6		6
Senility			
Suicide	1		1
Other Violence	2		2
All Other Causes	12	11	23
Diarrhœa (over 2 years)			
Smallpox			
Polio-myelitis			
Polioencephalitis			
Total All Causes	77	65	142

Notification of Infectious Diseases.

Typhoid	0
Pneumonia	4
Erysipelas	3
Scarlet Fever	7
Diphtheria	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0
Whooping Cough	3
Measles	1

Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital, Kings Ash, Paignton, from Brixham Urban District, during 1944.

Total Number of Cases : 4 (all Devon Residents).

Disease	Number of Cases
Scarlet Fever	4

Cases admitted to "Dunedin" Auxiliary Isolation Hospital, Paignton, from Brixham Urban District, during 1944.

Total Number of Cases : 9

Disease	Number of Cases	
Whooping Cough	1	(Evacuee)
Scabies, etc.	8	(4 Evacuees)

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0								
1								
5				1				
15	1	4						
25	2							
35	2	1			1		1	
45	2				1			
55	1					1		
65 *and upward*		1						
Totals	8	6			2	1	1	

The above total of 14 new cases includes 1 foreign war refugee.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR
For the Year ending 31st December, 1944.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present my Nineteenth Annual Report, which, as required by the Ministry of Health, is confined to statistics only.

Yours faithfully,

F. L. GODFREY,

Sanitary Inspector and
Inspector of Meat and Foods.

HOUSING, 1944.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including number given separate under "b") :

I.	By Local Authority	0
II.	By other Local Authorities	0
III.	By other bodies or persons	0

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :

I.	By the Local Authority	0
	(a) For the purpose of Part II of the Housing Act, 1925 ...	0
	(b) For the purpose of Part III of the Housing Act, 1925	0
	(c) For other purposes	0
II.	By other bodies	0

HOUSING STATISTICS, 1944.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

1 (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	63

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 85

2 (a) Number of dwelling-houses (including under sub-head 1 above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, and 1932) 85

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 134

3 Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 0

4 Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 37

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 34

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 12

2 Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners 12

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 26

2 Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners 26

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0

2 Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1 Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0

2 Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement of room having been rendered fit 0

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV (Overcrowding).

(a) 1. Number of Dwellings overcrowded at end of year 0
2. Number of Families dwelling therein ... 0
3. Number of Persons dwelling therein .. 0

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year 0

(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year 0
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases 0

(d) Particulars of cases in which Dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. 0

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider desirable to report. 0

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

and Work of the Public Health Department, 1944.

HOUSING.

Number of dwelling-houses completed during year 1944 :—

Detached Houses	0
Terrace Houses	0
Bungalows	0
Total number of dwelling-houses completed during year 1944	0
Public Buildings, Workshops, etc.	0

Number of houses built during the year for working classes :—

By Local Authority	0
By Private Effort	0

Number of new houses or flats required for working class	150
Houses inspected	63
Cases of overcrowding abated	0
Defective houses repaired	74
,, floors repaired	9
,, roofs repaired or renewed	43
,, yards paved	2
,, external plastering repaired	27
,, internal plastering repaired	36
,, windows repaired	17
,, stoves repaired	14
,, coppers repaired	2

Number of houses dealt with under Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926 :

During year	0
Total to date	23

DRAINS AND DRAINAGE.

Sewers re-laid during the year :—Nil.

Drains examined	43
Defective drains repaired or renewed	19
Certificates issued in respect of drainage of new buildings	0
Certificates issued in respect of drainage of existing buildings	5
Existing w.c.s fitted with flushing cisterns, or cisterns renewed	12
Defective traps removed or replaced with approved stoneware gully traps	9
Defective w.c.s repaired	12
Automatic cisterns fixed	2

The following sanitary fittings have been installed during the year :—

New baths	7
W.C.s	5
Lavatory basins	11
Urinals	1
Scullery sinks	3
Interceptors	4
Septic tanks	0
Chemical closets	0

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

Rooms fumigated	31
Articles of clothing and bedding disinfected ...	811
Articles of clothing and bedding destroyed	36
Rooms disinfected for notifiable infectious disease ...	5
,, ,, ,, tuberculosis	4
,, ,, ,, verminous condition	22
Cases removed to Isolation Hospitals	13

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Number of cow-keepers and dairymen registered at end of year :—	
Producer Wholesalers	6
Producer Wholesalers and Retailers	5
Producer Retailers	16
Retailers	9
Number removed from register	1
Number of cowsheds in district	24
,, ,, without impervious floors ...	9
,, ,, with unsatisfactory drainage ...	5
,, ,, ,, ,, ventilation	5
,, ,, ,, ,, lighting ...	3
,, ,, ,, ,, water supply	2
Number of visits to dairies, cowsheds, farms, etc. ...	18
Number of samples of milk taken for examination :—	
For cleanliness	14
For tuberculosis	6
For adulteration (taken by County Police) ...	22

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

(Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924)

Number of butchers' shops in the district	8
Other food shops and stores	68
Number of visits to butchers' shops	94
,, ,, other food shops and stores ...	116

Inspection of Meat and Foods.

Slaughtering in District (except for casuals) ceased January 1940, (M.O.F. Order). All meat is received from Paignton Depot.

WEIGHT OF UNFIT FOOD DESTROYED.

	Tuberculosis	Other Diseases and Conditions	Total Lbs.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	
Beef		38	38
Mutton ...			
Pork		19	19
Offals		26	26
Total		83	83

The following Foods have been surrendered as unsound :—

34 tins Pilchards ; 36 tins Salmon ; 51 tins Sardines ; 14 tins Baked Beans ; 13 tins Beans in Tomato ; 37 tins Sweetened Milk ; 187 tins Evaporated Milk ; 19 tins Herrings in Tomato ; 6 tins Syrup ; 3 tins Pork and Beans ; 4 tins Marmalade ; 154 tins Pork Luncheon Meat ; 8 tins Pork Sausage Meat ; 4 tins Brisket Beef ; 4 tins Stewing Steak ; 9 tins Pears ; 12 tins Plums ; 2 tins Soup ; 40 tins Peas : 3-lbs .Apple Rings ; 22-lbs. Peas ; 2-lbs. Pearl Barley, 20-lbs. Rice ; 30-lbs. Self-Rasing Flour ; 6-lbs. Semolina ; 1-lbs. Oatmeal ; 4-lbs. Jam ; 14 packets. Shredded Wheat ; 262 Eggs.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Number of slaughter-houses in district :—		
Registered	Not	3
Licensed	in use	2
Number of visits to slaughter-houses		0
Number of visits to premises where emergency or occasional slaughtering is carried out		4

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number of noxious or offensive trades in district ...	0

NUISANCES.

Complaints of nuisances received	67
Informal notices served	7
Statutory notices served	0
Nuisances abated without written notice	45

SCHOOLS.

Number of schools in district :—	
Public	5
Private	3
Number of schools found defective	0
,, ,, notices to managers	0
,, ,, visits to schools	6

BAKEHOUSES.

Number of bakehouses in district	9
,, ,, inspections	11
,, found defective	2
,, of notices to remedy	2

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901 AND FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health. Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Number of factories and workshops registered in district 67

Premises. (1)		Number of Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power ...	23	7		
Factories without mechanical power	38	19		
* Other Premises under the Act (including works of building & engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	6	6		
*Electrical stations should be reckoned as factories.				
Total	67	32		

2.—Defects Found.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects: Found (2)	Number of Defects: Remedied (3)	Number of Defects: Referred to H M. Inspector (4)	Number of offences in respect to which prosecutions were instituted (5)
Want of cleanliness (S. 1) ...	2	2		
Overcrowding (S. 2)				
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)				
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)				
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)				
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)—				
Insufficient				
Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2		
Not separate for sexes ...				
Other offences ... ... (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Section mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
Total	4	4		

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

(1) (a) Number of Council houses found to be infested 2
,, ,, ,, disinfected ... 2
(b) Number of other houses found to be infested 11
,, ,, ,, disinfected ... 11

(2) Spraying with approved insecticide after removing wallpaper, skirting, etc.

(3) No action is taken before the removal of tenant's belongings, except inspection by the Sanitary Inspector.

(4) Work of disinfection is carried out by the Public Health Department.

(5) Tenants are advised by the Sanitary Inspector as to measures to prevent re-infestation after cleansing.

PETROLEUM AND EXPLOSIVES ACTS.

Particulars of Registration.

Number of Licenses granted to store Petroleum Spirit	15
,, ,, ,, ,, Carbide of Calcium	2
,, ,, ,, ,, Mixed Explosives	2
,, ,, ,, ,, Gunpowder and Mixed Explosives in Magazines	2

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

Infestation Order, 1943.

Miss Holman was appointed as Rodent Operator in October, 1944, and the result of her work have shown that regular treatment of premises by the block method brings much better results than individual efforts.

Baits are supplied thoughout the year, and properties both in the town and out-lying districts have been successfully treated.

PORT HEALTH DISTRICT OF BRIXHAM.

Report for Year ending 31st December, 1944.

Regular inspections are made of the local boats, also visiting ships are examined by the Customs, and inspected as a routine matter.

No action has been necessary in respect of infectious disease, aud the facilities available for treatment, etc., are the same as outlined in my previous reports.